

# OTA RESOURCES

---

Tiffany Skogstrom, MPH

Director

Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance

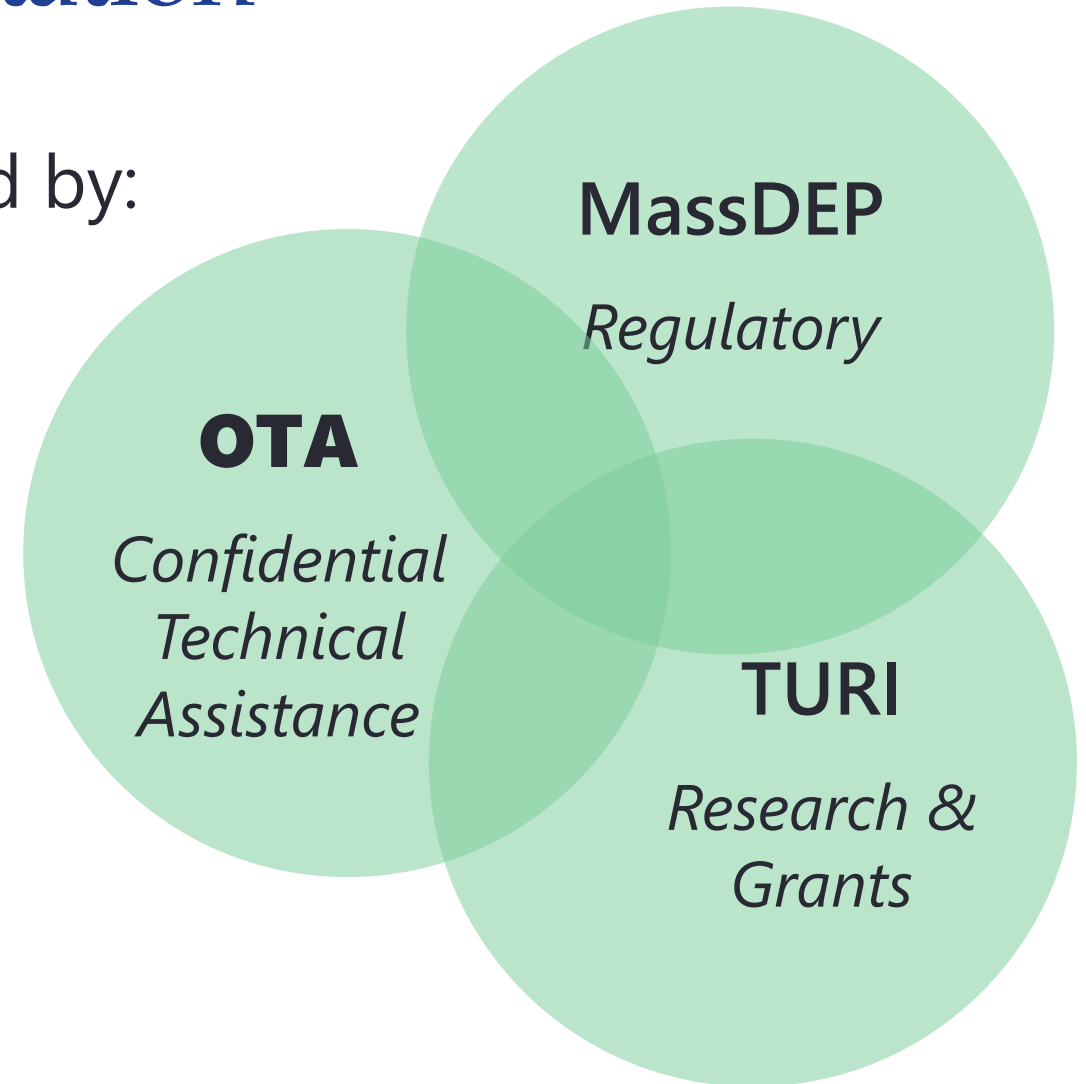
May 12, 2022



# TURA Program Implementation

The TURA Program is co-implemented by:

- The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- The Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell
- The Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance



# Office of Technical Assistance (OTA)

- **Non-regulatory** agency
- Provides **free, confidential** technical and compliance assistance to MA businesses that use toxic substances
- Gives **concrete recommendations** for toxics reduction and resource conservation


OTA has conducted 3,500 site visits at 1,500 facilities, reducing **millions of pounds** of toxic chemicals and **millions of dollars** in operating costs.

# OTA Staff

- Chemists, engineers, and public health professionals
- Hands-on manufacturing experience



## OTA understands:

- Health and safety
  - The bottom line
  - Regulatory requirements
  - How to implement change
- 

# Obstacles for Companies

## Lack of company awareness

PFAS not listed on SDS  
Confidential Business Information (CBI)  
Tainted incoming feedstock

## Regrettable substitution

'Shorter-chain' is still a 'forever chemical'

## Fear of liability

Other PFAS sources = misplaced liability

## Lack of regulation

# What to look for

---

Check SDS (see examples)

---

Keywords to look for terms such as 'fluoro', 'PFxx', 'fluorinated', 'HF is a decomposition product'

---

De minimis = 1% for all PFAS except PFOA (<0.1%). Applications where PFAS are likely to be present less than 1% include surfactants, processing aids

---

Testing is not required, but is an option

# Identifying PFAS Use in Your Facility

Look for common uses of PFAS



- Common uses include textile coatings (e.g., water-repellency), surfactants, degreasing (e.g., solvents), metal finishing (e.g., fume suppressants), polymers and resins, and AFFF
- Check your SDSs for products likely to contain PFAS
- Note listings described as Confidential Business Information (CBI) or proprietary as items of concern – contact your supplier or [OTA](#) for help

Check available CAS numbers against reportable definition



- Review [draft TURA guidance](#) and use reportable definition to check CAS # against [existing databases](#)
- Paper and metal finishing industries, [contact OTA](#) to take survey
- If no CAS numbers are available for fluorinated compounds, contact your supplier or [OTA](#) for technical assistance

Send a notification letter to your chemical or product supplier



- Use [OTA's template](#) to notify your supplier
- Involve your purchasing department in this effort
- Keep records to demonstrate good faith effort

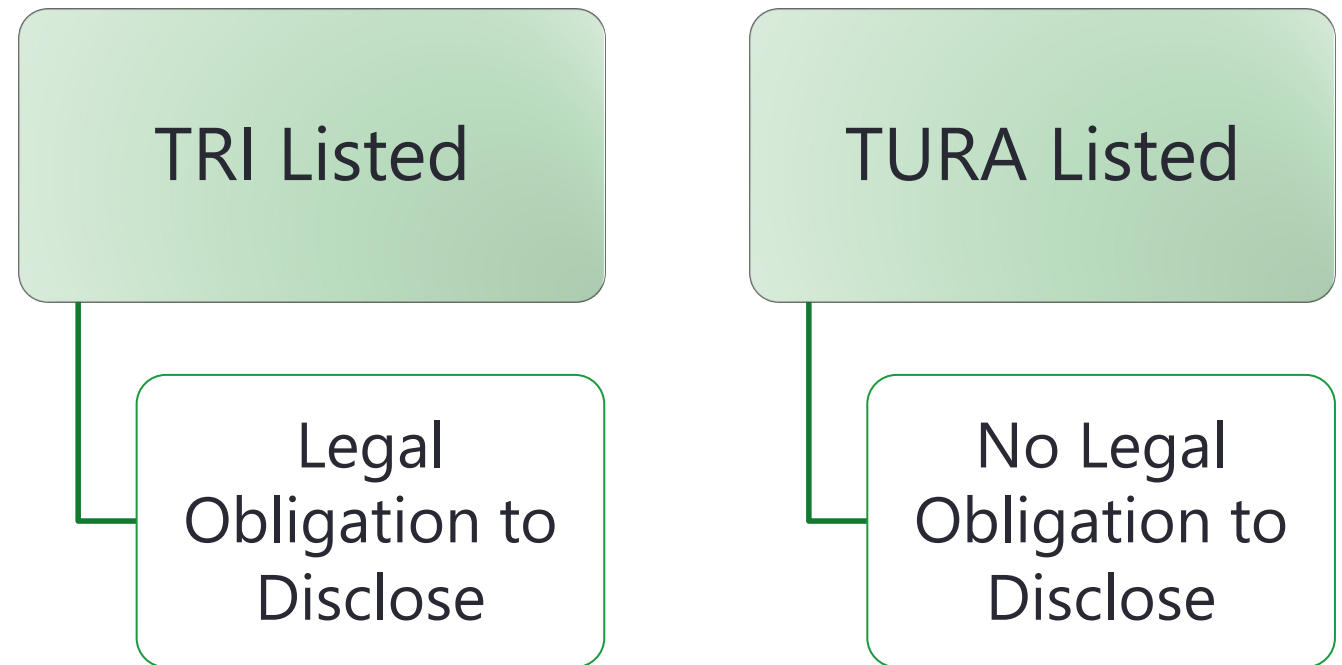
Contribute to developing product list



- The TURA program is developing a list of products confirmed to contain PFAS
- If your supplier notifies you of products containing PFAS, please share this information with OTA/TURI

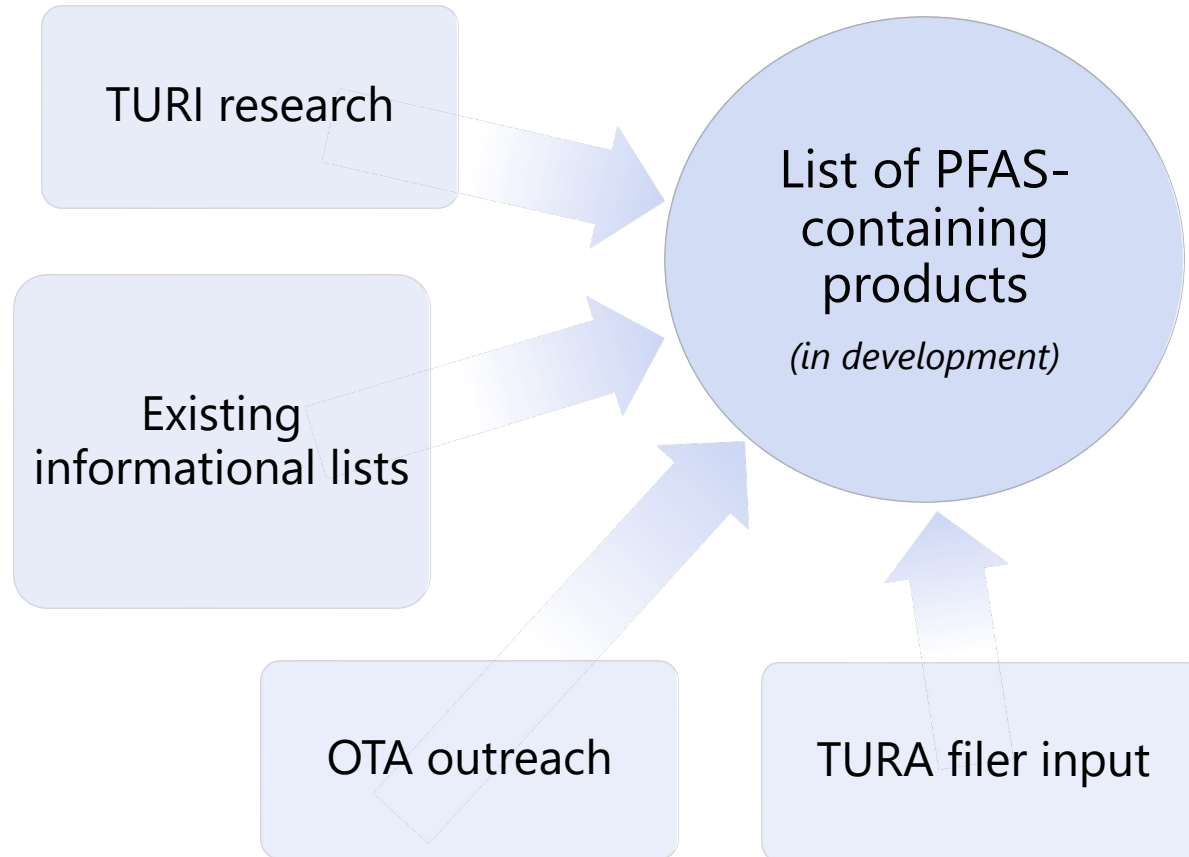
# PFAS Identification: Supplier Notification Letter

OTA has developed a **supplier notification letter** (template in handouts) that companies can use to request information from their suppliers about PFAS reportable under TRI and TURA.





# Resources for Companies: PFAS Product List

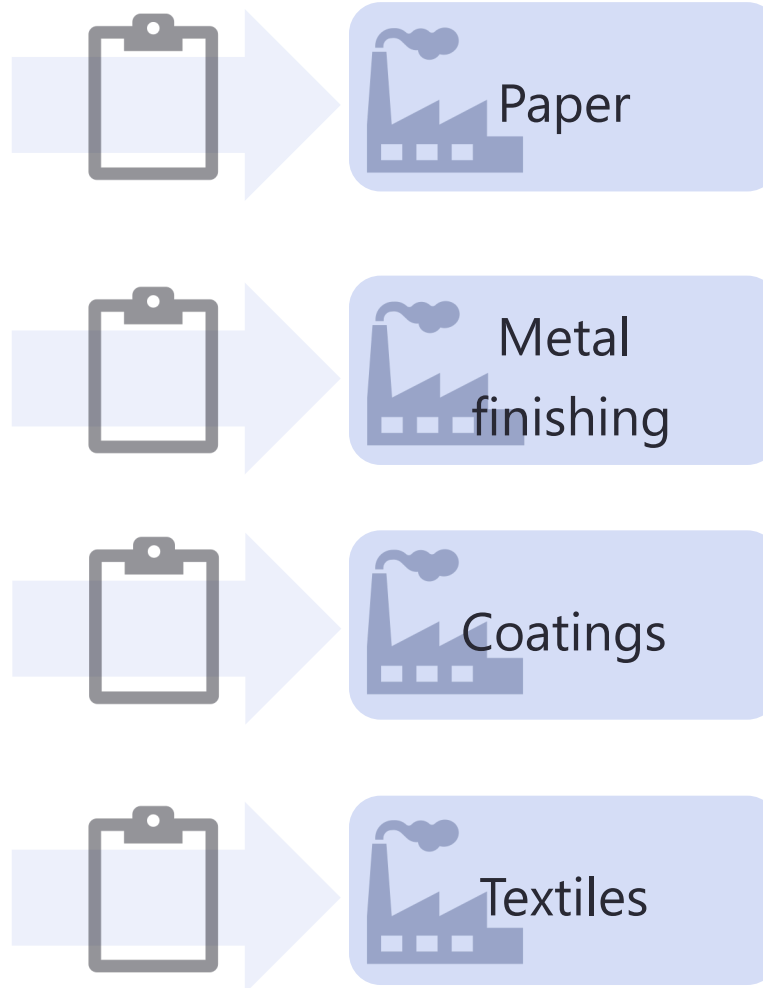


- Once developed, product list made available to help companies avoid PFAS-containing products
- May highlight applications where safer alternatives still need to be identified

# Resources for Companies: PFAS Identification

Assessments to  
identify PFAS  
sources

*(several in  
development)*



- OTA technical staff flag likely sources of PFAS
  - Companies may share list of CAS numbers with OTA
- OTA and TURI pursue research on products of concern
- Companies may opt to share product information with OTA to populate a list of PFAS-containing products

# OTA Technical Assistance

- OTA can assist facilities with:
  - Toxics use reduction
  - Environmental compliance
  - Energy efficiency
  - Resource conservation
- Both onsite and remote assistance are available
- After a site visit, OTA delivers a report with tailored recommendations



# Frequently Asked Questions about OTA

Is OTA's work truly confidential?

Yes. OTA will **never** disclose anything about your company—not even that we worked with you—without your written permission.

What if I'm out of compliance with laws or regulations?

Then we'll help you get in compliance. We can't and won't report any violations.

What kinds of work has OTA done before?

Some companies have given us permission to talk about how we've helped them. Visit [mass.gov/ota](https://mass.gov/ota) to see our case study library.



# Climate Change Resources

- [www.mass.gov/eea/ota-climate](http://www.mass.gov/eea/ota-climate)
- GIS map of toxics users and Climate Vulnerability Factors
- Emergency planning tools for facilities
- Video

## 5/25/22 Climate Change / Chemical Safety Training

The New England Consortium is delivering a 3-hour virtual, no-cost course that includes the intensifying climate crisis extreme weather events and chemical safety in companies and communities; state and federal requirements for hazardous materials; emergency planning (including risk management plans); and building resilience within communities and organizations and at the individual level. This course is intended for municipal organizations, companies, public emergency responders, non-profit institutions, and community organizations.

Presenters are from TNEC and the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance.

[Register online](#) for the May 25 course.

# Contact Us

Tiffany Skogstrom, MPH

OTA Director

[tiffany.skogstrom@mass.gov](mailto:tiffany.skogstrom@mass.gov)

Website: [mass.gov/ota](https://mass.gov/ota)



: [@Mass\\_OTA](https://twitter.com/Mass_OTA)

